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PP RUEHAG RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHKUK RUEHROV RUEHSR
DE RUEHLB #1801 3651324
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 301324Z DEC 08
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3873
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 3523
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3316
RHMFISS/CDR USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 001801

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/ELA, NEA
ALSO FOR IO A/S HOOK, PDAS WARLICK
P FOR DRUSSELL AND RRANGASWAMY
USUN FOR KHALILZAD/WOLFF/GERMAIN/SCHEDLBAUER
NSC FOR ABRAMS/RAMCHAND/YERGER/MCDERMOTT

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/24/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [UNSC](#) [MASS](#) [KPAL](#) [IS](#) [LE](#)
SUBJECT: SALLOUKH SKEPTICAL ON ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Classified By: Ambassador Michele J. Sison, for reasons 1.4
(b) and (d).

11. (C) Visiting NEA Deputy Assistant Secretary David Hale, Ambassador, and visiting NEA Lebanon Desk Officer met Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh on December 19. Salloukh noted general respect for the Doha agreement in advance of the 2009 parliamentary elections, which he expected to occur in late May or early June. Salloukh hoped Lebanon and the region would remain calm, but remarked that there were no indications of a "fair deal" emerging from the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. DAS Hale noted that the UN Security Council had recently passed a resolution (UNSCR 1850) endorsing the Annapolis peace process, that the parties themselves continued to request confidentiality, and that the situation on the ground in the West Bank was improving. Referring to Russia's offer to provide 10 MiG-29 jets to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF), Salloukh called for more advanced U.S. assistance "like fighter jets." DAS Hale said the LAF had made no such request and that the U.S. would continue to help the LAF build its counter-terrorism mission.

12. (U) This message has been cleared by DAS Hale.

SISON